[19th March 1948

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I have given all the information that I possess, Sir."

Officers competent to search without a warrant.

* 39 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Home Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) the departments of Government whose officers are authorized to carry out inspections and investigations into private houses and premises without a search warrant; and

(*b*) from whom such authority is obtained before such inspections and investigations are conducted, and on what sources of information is action taken?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" (*a*) Officers of the Police, Excise, Customs, Salt, Revenue, Prohibition, Commercial Taxes, Forest, Civil Supplies, Public Health, Textiles, Industries and Electrical Engineering departments mentioned in column 2 of the paper [a] placed on the table of the House are authorized to carry out inspections and investigations without a search warrant.

" (*b*) In most cases the officers carrying out the inspections and investigations are empowered to act on their own authority. The officers from whom such authority is obtained in the remaining cases are mentioned in column 3 of the paper placed on the table of the House. Action is taken *suo moto* by competent officers on information received from any source *prima facie* reliable."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Sir, from the statement laid on the table, referring to items 11, 20 to 22 and 24 to 26, may I know who are the officers who have been authorized either by the Central Government or by the Provincial Government? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" It is put down against the item itself that ' A Police officer not below the rank of a Sub-Inspector, or any person specially authorized by the Provincial Government in this behalf,' and similarly with regard to the other items also, the ranks of officers of the various departments who actually carry out the inspections and investigations without search warrants are given."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know if there are any officers authorized by the Provincial Government in respect of these five provisions? I am sure, the Government do not propose to authorize every officer."

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" The hon. Member may be certain that the Government will authorize only those people in whom they have confidence."

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[a] Printed as Appendix I on pages 39-43 infra.